

**REMARKS****STATUS OF APPLICATION**

Claims 10-14 have been canceled in this paper. Thus, claims 1-9, 15-19 and 21-29 are pending in the present application.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The indication in the Advisory Action that claims 1-9, 15-19 and 21-25 are allowed is noted with appreciation. In an interview with Examiner Jennifer H. Gay on September 16, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 26-29 are also allowed. Thus, claims 1-9, 15-19 and 21-29 are allowed in the present application. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's helpfulness in this matter. As only allowed claims are pending in the present application, an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

**DRAWINGS**

Applicant notes that the Office has not indicated the acceptability of the drawings. In the absence of an indication otherwise, Applicant considers the drawings to have been accepted.

**35 USC § 102 REJECTIONS****Claims 10 and 11**

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0157837 of Bode *et al.* ("Bode"). These claims, however, have been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of

claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Bode, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

### Claims 13 and 14

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,083,625 ("White"). These claims, however, have been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by the White patent, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Daren C. Davis at (817) 578-8616 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.  
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

Date: September 23, 2004

By: 

Daren C. Davis, Reg. No. 38,425  
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100  
Houston, Texas 77042  
(713) 934-7000  
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)  
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)